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Subject: Re: Language Documentation;  
Posted by [steinhh](#) on Fri, 08 Jul 1994 16:55:05 GMT  
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In article <2vjsic\$9p5@ncar.ucar.edu>, caron@acd.ucar.edu (John Caron) writes:  
|> As a general comment to RSI, your manuals seem written for the casual,  
|> scientist-type (i.e. non-programmer). Sort of a "dont confuse them" attitude.  
|> Your language description is woefully vague to the eyes (ears?) of this  
|> programmer. How about a "programmer's description" of the language?  
|>  
|> Comments?  
|>

Quite agree!

I was very bewildered one day when someone commented that my use of "not 0" as a return value could cause problems, since some Fortran users would write their logical tests as "if i eq 1 then..", meaning "if i then". With an explanation of the rules, this could be avoided.

Along the same lines, why shouldn't it be possible to have an anonymous structure as a member of another structure?

And could I please have \*pointers\* (reference data type)? In Fortran-style programs (ahem, read scientist's programs) it's quite useless, but when working with e.g. complex widget applications, sharing large amounts of data, I've had to implement a "pointer" data type by using SET/GET\_UVALUE and the /NO\_COPY keyword! It's actually quite effective (compared to the alternatives), but not really easy-to-use!

And the manual could have warned about the fact that the use of the NO\_COPY keyword actually makes the variable undefined, when setting a UVALUE..

Well, that's enough for today..

Stein Vidar Haugan

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